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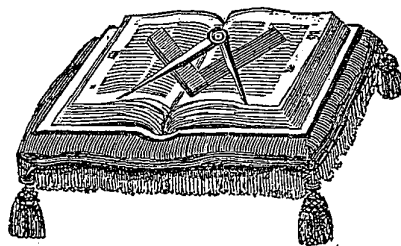
THE

FREEMASONS MAGAZINE

AND

MASONIC MIRROR.

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THE
F R E E M A S O N S M A G A Z I N E
AND
M A S O N I C M I R R O R.

ADDRESS TO OUR READERS.

Another year has closed, and we have once more to thank the brethren for their support. The year 1863 has certainly not been distinguished by any great wants of national importance. The Royal Lady, who fortunately reigns over these realms, has arrived at the conclusion of that mourning for the loss of her Consort, which has weighed heavily not only upon her, but upon the nation; and her Majesty may be again said to have returned into public. In the course of the year, the heir to the throne has been wedded to the Princess Alexandra of Denmark, and rumour already points to other joys in store for the young couple and the Royal Family. In the meantime, some extraordinary changes have taken place in the immediate family of the Princess, which could never have been foreseen when she agreed to link her fortunes with England's eldest Prince. Her brother, a boy yet in his teens, has been called upon to reign in Greece, under the classic designation of King of the Hellenes; and her father has unexpectedly, by the almost sudden death of the late King, ascended the throne of Denmark, not, however, without opposition as regards some parts of his dominions; and we can at present only hope that the two Kings may enjoy a brighter future than as yet appears in store for them.

This time last year we had to allude to the distress prevailing in the manufacturing districts of Lancashire and Cheshire, and the noble efforts which were making to alleviate the sufferings of the workmen. Fortunately a fine season, and the bounty of Providence, has done much to restore prosperity to these districts, and it is to be hoped, ere another twelvemonth has elapsed, that prosperity will be still further increased.

As regards the Craft, it continues to prosper; and new lodges are being daily added to the amended list, though there are evident signs that a large number of the Australian lodges will shortly secede from the English rule.

The Committee appointed to arrange the Grand Lodge property, have entered into arrangements for the building of the first section, or that portion which is to be devoted to the exclusive use of the Craft, and we hope that within twelve months it will be ready for occupation.

In the meantime, the Masonic Union Company have opened their Hall, in Bedford Row; and the Knights Templars and English Mark Degree have taken up their quarters there, to the evident detriment of the Freemasons' Tavern, which cannot fail to be seriously injured if the promoters are enabled fully to carry out their plans.

The Charities continue to flourish, and the foundation-stone of a new School-house for the Boys has been laid at Wood Green, if not with that *eclat* which could be wished, at least with every prospect of its conducing to the prosperity of the Institution.

The Girls' School has been enlarged so as to admit of the reception of 100 pupils, when the state of the funds will allow, which, looking at their rapid increase within the last few years, we feel cannot be long deferred.

The Royal Benevolent Institution for Aged Masons and their Widows does not receive that amount of support which it deserves; but, as the approaching Festival will take place on the anniversary of the birthday of its first patron, His late Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex, we trust the brethren will exert themselves to render it the best festival—so far as pecuniary results are concerned—ever held.

We have now only again to thank our friends for past favours, and to wish them the usual Compliments of the Season—A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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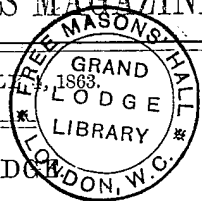
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LONDON, SATURDAY, JULY 11, 1863.



NEW GRAND LODGE

We last week published the proceedings of an important meeting at Victoria, Australia, of Freemasons holding under the three constitutions of England, Scotland, and Ireland, at which it was resolved to petition the parent Grand Lodges to allow them to withdraw their warrants, and form a Grand Lodge of their own, and thereby secure uniformity of working throughout the colony, which it is impossible under the present arrangements.

Nothing can be more reasonable than this request, and we trust—indeed we feel assured so far as the Grand Lodge of England is concerned—that no obstacle will be thrown in the way of the brethren of Victoria in carrying out their wishes, which they have so reasonably and so moderately put forward. We feel with them that to have three jurisdictions within one district was to prevent that harmony and co-operation which should always exist among Freemasons—and, that though we believe that a certificate from the Grand Lodge of England must carry a weight greater than that of any new Grand Lodge, we can well understand that within the colony itself, it is most desirable to establish a unity of action. There is one mistake, however, which some of the speakers at the meeting appear to have fallen into, and which we feel bound to correct. It is assumed that we draw money from the colonies which is spent for English, though Masonic purposes. Nothing can be more incorrect—the fees drawn from the colonies barely pay the expenses of correspondence and certificates—and in some instances they do not do even that; there being no annual payments towards the Fund of Benevolence, though should colonial brethren need assistance here, their cases would be as fully and liberally considered—if not more so—as though they were members of the list of English lodges. The Grand Lodge of England does good to Freemasonry, by granting warrants to colonies in their infancy—but when they are sufficiently strong to take care of themselves, if they wish to separate from her, she has no objection, when properly appealed to, to wish them God speed in their future career. One thing only we feel assured will the Grand Lodge of England stipulate for, that those lodges who wish to remain under her sway shall be allowed to do so, and receive full recognition from any new Grand Lodge that may be formed.

Even now, so far as England is concerned (we speak not for Scotland or Ireland), the colonies are virtually independent, the Provincial Grand Master having, for some years past, been appointed on the recommendation of the various lodges within the

district, whilst, in order to avoid delay as regards certificates they are sent out to the Provincial Grand Masters in blank. Yet we still admit there is a difficulty as regards the action of conflicting jurisdictions within one colony, which it is most desirable to get rid of, and we wish that some arrangement on the subject could become to between the Grand Lodges of England, Scotland, and Ireland.

PROPOSED UNION OF THE EARLY GRAND OF SCOTLAND WITH THE GENERAL GRAND R.A. CHAPTER OF SCOTLAND.

(From a Scotch Correspondent.)

Several months ago, the leading members of the unrecognised body of R.A. and K.T. Masons known in Scotland as the "Early Grand Encampment," were waited upon in Ayr by the Depute Grand First Principal of the "General Grand Royal Arch Chapter," and invited to join that newly-formed body. The matter having been brought before the several encampments in Scotland holding of the Early Grand, preparatory to its consideration by the Mother Encampment, was finally disposed of at a meeting of that court held at Kilmarnock on Wednesday week. Depute-Grand Master (Bro. William Martin) presided, and made a statement relative to what had transpired at the interviews he and others had had with Bro. Campbell regarding the contemplated union on the Arch degree of the Early Grand with the General Grand. The latter body, which had but recently seceded from the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland, offered to grant R.A. charters to Early Grand Encampments for 20s. each, and admit their existing members on payment of 1s. each—leaving the present encampments to work the K.T. degrees as at present; and as the Grand Priory of Scotland was nearly defunct, and the Glasgow Sir Knights meditated the erection of a Grand Priory in connection with their new Grand R.A. Chapter, there was every prospect of an amalgamation of the Early Grand with the General Grand K.T's. That was the substance of what had been held out by Bro. Donald Campbell and others as an inducement to the members of the Early Grand to join issue with the Grand Chapter recently formed in Glasgow; and with the single remark that he was personally opposed to any such union as that sought to be brought about by the heads of the General Grand, he (the Chairman) would be glad to hear the Sir Knights then present give expressions to the views on the subject entertained by the encampment from which they were delegated. In response to Bro. Martin's invitation, several brethren addressed the meeting on the special business for which they had been brought to-

gether. It was argued that, inasmuch as those seeking the Early Grand to fraternize with them on the Royal Arch Degree were themselves an unrecognised body, no real advantage could possibly accrue to members of the Early Grand joining the new body. Was it to be thought that the charters offered by seceders from the Supreme Grand Chapter were to be accepted in preference to those under which for nearly eighty years the Early Grand had conferred both the Royal Arch and Knight Templar Degrees? The most natural and the only ground upon which an amalgamation of the two bodies could ever be effected would be the acceptance by their Glasgow fraters of Early Grand warrants for the practice of Red and Black Masonry. Time enough to talk of union with the seceders when their minds were brought respectfully to seek admission into the ranks of the Early Grand Encampment of Scotland. That body at present enjoyed much prosperity—strength, union, and concord being prominent features of that prosperity; and they required neither men from the ranks nor money from the exchequer of the General or any other Grand Body: the Early Grand were the first, and they will be the last—it therefore behoved the Sir Knights dubbed under their charters to uphold the dignity and independence of the Early Grand, and thus refuse to sink their identity in the membership of any other Masonic body. The mother encampment of Scotland had been legally constituted and recognised as an independent Grand Body by their Masonic parent, the Early Grand Encampment of Ireland,—that position was not yet attained by the Glasgow Grand, why then should the members of the Early Grand be asked to acknowledge the superiority of the Glasgow Grand, and to raise that very young and as yet untried and uninfluential body at the expense of their own. As an independent body they could now govern themselves: by joining hands with the new Grand Chapter, they would have to put up with the dictation and the rule of others who might possess little or no disposition to study the wants or redress the grievances of their Early Grand brethren.

In accordance with these and similarly expressed sentiments, on the motion of Sir Knight Weir, of Muirkirk, seconded by Sir Knight Burns, of Kilmarnock, it was unanimously resolved that the Early Grand dismiss the proposal for union with the Glasgow Grand, and continue in their present state of independence.

The election of Grand Master was then fixed to take place at Muirkirk, on Holy Cross Day, 14th September; and after a most cordial vote of thanks to Sir Knight Maston for the ability in conducting the business of the meeting, the delegates dispersed.

EVENING THOUGHTS ON MASONRY.

Was ever anything written more truly than this?—

"Masonry:—It is much; it is of the highest importance, or it is nothing. It is nothing to the sensualist or the vicious. It is of much, nay, almost of the highest importance to the virtuous and rational man. It is no more to ambitious, miserly, selfish, or lying men, than are colours to the blind, music to the deaf, or poetry and the fine arts to the brutes."

The name of Bro. Des Etangs, who wrote this golden truth, ought to be, with others, a household word indeed to the true Mason. And if it were, a growing evil, an evil which threatens to become a serious cancer in the body of Masonry, would be checked at once. How often and often do we hear these words, most melancholy to one who loves our Order—"What good is it? I have now taken my three degrees, and, prithee, wherein am I benefitted?" Does not the man who can say this belong to the class to whom Masonry is nothing? Are we not tempted to say of such a one, he has no feeling for beauty, or majesty, or antiquity, or purity, or for anything under the canopy of heaven but the miserable Ego? We cannot subdue our pity for this man, or our sorrow that he and the like of him should ever have been received into our Order. And the evil we complain of is the indiscriminate admission of men unfit by their education, their habits, or their very nature, to comprehend one iota of Freemasonry. Is it not true that our brethren, in proposing and receiving a candidate, think only of his social character and position, or of his being a "good fellow," and the former being proved to be blameless, forthwith with joy initiate him, forgetting utterly that, however uprightly and honestly he may have his walk and conversation in the world, however much he may be respected in business, or to whatever height his talents and his integrity may have raised him in the social scale, however much he may be a "capital fellow," he may yet be a most unfit and improper person to be made a Mason.

There are many such beside the sensualist, the vicious, the miser, the egotist, or the liar. The common, hard, worldly man—worldly, withal, in a degree less those who keep their souls at the bankers—is not a man fit to be a Mason. He will not appreciate the beauties of the Order, bidden or displayed. Most probably he will condemn the whole institution in his mind, if not openly, as a veritable humbug. He will speedily withdraw from all connection with it: and soon those with whom he should have mingled as brothers, will, as brothers, know him no more.

The weak-minded and ultra-and-credulously-romantic man is no fit person to be made a Mason. He, the very opposite of our friend above, will plunge heart and soul into the ocean of Masonry, will surely get beyond his depth, and be lost in the waves of mysticism. He will devote an extravagant portion of his time and money to Masonry which, being carried by the true Mason into the world, is there displayed by him in the battle of life—not for his own good primarily, but for that of all with whom he comes in contact. Freemasonry is to be used, we take it; it is not a jewel which certain persons only are privileged to look at and mayhap admire. It is a pure white garment of truth, charity, and knowledge, to be worn and used, with a sincere desire to render ourselves more generally useful to our fellow creatures.

So it unhappily comes about, that, after all, there are but few who are really worthy to be made masons. And if so, if the difficulty of choosing the proper man from among a crowd of applicants be so great, how strongly does the fact stand out that we are far too lax in our system of admission? . . . The high degrees are notoriously as sieves, wherewith to eliminate the unworthy of the order: the higher you ascend, the finer the sieve and the thinner the ranks. This ought not to be so, but it is so; and until more discrimination be used, until more is required of the candidate than a good

character and the wherewithal for the treasurer, it will be so even to the end of the chapter. . . . Is this an old story? Is it not, then, all the truer? . . . We have rambled far enough, following our evening thoughts. If any body think them worth the following we will have another stroll another time.—*Indian Freemasons Friend*,

MASONIC NOTES AND QUERIES.

THE GRAND LODGE OF ITALY.

Almost every European nation has its Grand Lodge, but I have never heard of there being one in Italy; can you settle the question whether there is one or not?—A TRAVELLING BROTHER.—[We can. We have lying before us No. 10 of the first year's issue of the *Bollettino ufficiale del Grande Oriente Italiano*, dated from Turin, 1st of June, 1863. It is a very careful compilation of news from every part of the globe, *au fait* with all recent matters, for we notice that our Editor, Bro. Warren's scheme for continuing this MAGAZINE under a limited liability company is given as a paragraph, as well as the Past Grand rank lately conferred on Bro. H.R.H. Marajah Duhleep Singh, by the M.W.G.M. Besides the Grand Lodge there are several other Masonic authorities in Italy, amongst the foremost of which stand the SS. G. II. G. of the xxxiii°.]

FREEMASONRY IN 1709.

It is so common to hear Freemasonry spoken of as becoming known from the revival of Grand Lodge in 1717, that it is with pleasure I send you a very remarkable extract from the *Masonic Eclectic*, a New York publication, in which the writer notes his discovery, from one of our English classics, that Freemasonry was popularly understood in England, and known as Freemasonry as early as the year 1709. The article is as follows:—

"A FRAGMENT OF HISTORY, BY THE HON. JOHN L. LEWIS, JR.—In No. 26 of the *Tatler* for Thursday, June 9th, 1709, occurs this passage, in speaking of a class of men called Pretty Fellows: 'You see them accost each other with effeminate airs; they have their signs and tokens like Freemasons; they rail at woman-kind,' etc. I do not remember of ever having seen the passage quoted; but the entire paper from which it is selected bears indisputable evidences of the peculiar style of its writer, Sir Richard Steele, one of the wits of Queen Anne's time—a man about town, and a close observer of everything transpiring in London in his day. It was a favourite position of the Anti-masonic writers thirty years ago, and it is asserted and believed at the present time, by those who agree with them in sentiment, that Freemasonry had its origin in 1717 (eight years after the date of the paper in question), at the time of the revival of the Grand Lodge; that previous to that time its only existence was in the company or guild of operative Masons, styled free, because they were freemen of London; and that the secret language of the Craft was invented in 1717 by Payne, Desaguliers, Anderson, and their associates. The sentence, therefore, is important in its bearing upon the history of the Fraternity at the commencement of the eighteenth century, and there is something more in it than a bare allusion. The writer is addressing a miscellaneous public, and is giving, in his usual lively style of description, mixed with good-humoured satire, an account of a band of London dandies and loungers whom he terms, in the quaint language of the day, 'Pretty Fellows.' He describes their effeminacy and gossip; and to give his readers the best idea that they were a closely-allied community, represents them as having signs and tokens like the Freemasons. Of course he would employ in this, as in every other of his essays, such language as would convey the clearest and simplest idea to the mind of his readers. Is it conceivable, therefore, if Freemasonry was a novelty, that he would content himself with this simple reference? Signs and tokens are spoken of in the same technical language which is employed at the present time, and as being something peculiarly and distinctively Masonic. What other society ever had its signs except Masons and their modern imitators? In what other, even of modern societies, except the Masonic, is the grip termed "a token?" Whether Sir Richard Steele was a Mason, I do not know, but I do know that, in the extract I have

given, he speaks of these signs and tokens as matters well-known and well understood by the public in his day as belonging to a particular class of men. It is left for the intelligent inquirer to ascertain how long and how widely such a custom must have existed and extended, to render such a brief and pointed reference to them intelligible to the public at large, or even to a mere London public. Certainly it must have reached back to a period prior to the commencement of the century, and at a time, too, when Masonry, as described by its own historians, as well as its enemies, had fallen into neglect and disuse under the Grand Mastership of Sir Christopher Wren, and hence claimed no particular attention from the public to attract notice to its peculiarities. Again: they are spoken of as Freemasons, and not merely Masons, or artificers in stone, and brick and mortar; and this, too, like the signs and tokens, is unaccompanied by a single word of explanation. If it meant operative masons only, freemen of the guild or corporation, why should the compound word be used, connected, as in the original, by a hyphen? (I quote by the way, from an edition of the *Tatler*, published in London in 1785.) Why not say Free-carpenters or Free-smiths as well? But it is needless to urge or argue this question further. The conclusion forces itself irresistibly upon the mind of every candid and intelligent person, that there existed in London in 1709, and for a long time before, a society known as the Freemasons, having certain distinct modes of recognition, and that this fact concerning them was known even when the four old lodges were idle; and that the idle assertions of Anti-masons respecting its history have no better foundation than their stock objections to it in other respects. And the proof of it is found, not in the assertions of Masonic writers and historians, but in a standard work; in one of that incomparable group of essays which are known wherever the English tongue is spoken or written, and which have become classical from the reputation and ability of their writers, their purity of style, and soundness of morals. It is not found in an elaborate panegyric written by a Masonic pen, but in the bare statement of a fact, unaccompanied by explanation, because it needed none then, as it needs none now, and is one of those sure and infallible guide-marks whence the materials for truthful history are taken, and by which its veracity is tested."

I would enquire if the quotation, given by the writer, is correct, and also if Sir Richard Steele was a Freemason?—EX. EX.—[We have collated the words with the *Tatler*, of June 9th, 1709, and find the extract to be "right in every particular." Sir Richard Steele was a Freemason of the York rite, or ancient Masons. In a list of the ancient lodges, inserted in Picart's *Ceremonies et costumes religieuses de tous les peuples du Monde*, 7 vols., fol., Amsterdam, 1723-37, Sir Richard Steele's portrait is given at the head of the sheet depicting the names and places of the ancient Masons lodgings and meetings.]

MILTON.

I am sorry to be obliged to disclaim relationship with Milton. Abraham Clarke was no relation of my family. My only connexion with Milton was finding out his grandfather, as a note on Professor Masson's Milton.—HYDE CLARKE.

RABELAIS.

I have latterly been again reading Rabelais, after many years, and am astonished at the number of passages which it contains in strict accordance with Freemasonry. I therefore wish to know if Rabelais was connected with any of the secret orders, so widely diffused over all Europe, which were Freemasons in all but the name. A reply will oblige.—CLERICUS.

MASONIC DRAWINGS.

[We have a set. They are only valuable as matters of antiquarian interest and scarcity.]

THE MARK DEGREE AND ITS COLOUR.

What is the colour peculiar to the Mark degree?—OVERSEER.—[Its symbolic colour is purple. The apron white, edged with purple, and a purple collar edged with gold. This is the authorised colour under Royal Arch Chapters. Where the degree is practised under the Ancient and Accepted Rite, and it is worked under that jurisdiction in many countries, its symbolical colour is yellow, in the place of the purple before mentioned.]

THE MASONIC MIRROR.

METROPOLITAN.

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE LODGE (No. 1008).—The installation meeting of this lodge took place at the Masonic Hall, William-street, Woolwich, on Friday, the 26th ult. There were present the following members:—Bros. Capt. Forbes, Col. Clarke, W. H. Carter, Capt. Boyle, and J. R. Thomson, P.M.'s; Little, S.W.; Major Field, S. Hare, Dunlop, E. Bayly, G. C. Morris, P. Laird, J. M. Boddy, Richardson, Matthew Cooke, Slessor, Lieut. Gorham, Coleman, Morris, C. Malings, Elliott, Capt. McLaughlin, W. C. Taylor, Fronfield, and Lyons. The visitors were Bros. G. Allinson, W.M. of the Pattison Lodge, G. Crawford, W.M. of the Nelson Lodge, and Bros. Norman, S. Hudson, Ruddach, Litle, Swarsbrook, and Crookendon. The ceremony of installation was very ably performed by the outgoing W.M., Bro. J. R. Thomson, who installed Bro. S. Little, S.W., as W.M. for the ensuing year, and Bro. Little was pleased to appoint and invest his officers as follows:—Major Field, S.W.; S. Hare, J.W.; P. Laird, re-invested Treas.; J. M. Boddy, re-invested Sec.;—Dunlop, S.D.; E. Bayly, J.D.; G. C. Morris, I.G.; and John Henderson, re-invested Tyler. There being no further business before the lodge it was closed, and the brethren adjourned to Bro. De Grey's, the Freemason's Tavern, Woolwich, where a very elegant dinner was provided for them.—The W.M., Bro. Little, after the cloth had been removed, gave the toasts of "The Queen and the Craft," "The Prince and Princess of Wales," "The M.W.G.M.," and "The D.G.M. and Grand Officers," all of which were heartily received and Masonically honoured.—The I.P.M., Bro. Thomson, said it was customary on the occasion of installations to propose the health of the newly-installed W.M., and he was very pleased to do so, as Bro. Little was one who would not flinch from doing his duty with zeal and ability.—Bro. Little, W.M., begged to thank them all for the handsome way they had drunk his health. He was but young in office, but he hoped to have a busier year than his predecessor. They all knew how able Bro. Thomson was, and he begged to propose the health of that brother, who was their immediate P.M.—Bro. Thomson returned thanks for the honour of having his health so heartily responded to. He hoped the new W.M. would have more work to do than had fallen to his share, and concluded by wishing him as much success as he could desire for himself.—The W.M. came to the next toast, which was "The Officers of the Florence Nightingale Lodge," and, as there were no new brethren present, he would only say they all knew the value and use of good officers, such as he believed they had secured, he, therefore, gave "The Health of the Officers," coupled with the name of Bro. Hare, their J.W.—Bro. Hare said the officers were very happy at being appointed to their respective stations, and he knew they all felt as he did which was to do his best for the good of the Florence Nightingale Lodge.—The W.M. said the lodge, had been that day honoured by a visit from several brethren of neighbouring lodges. He, his officers, and the members of No. 1008 heartily welcomed and thanked them for their presence; in return for which proposed "Success to their individual lodges," and coupled the toast with the name of Dr. Allison.—Dr. Allison, W.M. of the Pattison Lodge, was very happy to be present on that occasion. From what he had seen of the lodge and its officers he was sure they only felt the same as those lodges who were their near neighbours, who all rejoiced in the prosperity of the Florence Nightingale Lodge.—The W.M. said they had some other visitors to whom they were equally indebted for their presence, and to whom also they gave a hearty welcome. He then proposed the healths of the other visitors, and Bro. Ruddach. Bro. Ruddach had some difficulty in replying, as he was only on one of the lowermost rounds of the Masonic ladder, still to hear and obey was a well known Masonic rule, so, on behalf of the visitors and his own, he expressed their best thanks for the very elegant entertainment the lodge had placed before them, and the hearty and kind manner in which they had been received.—The W.M. had another toast to propose, for he thought they were all really indebted to Bro. De Grey for a very pleasant evening. He had most successfully attended to their creature comforts, and he was sure they, one and all, would drink his health and long life to him.—Bro. De Grey said it was great pleasure to be so kindly remembered, and he hoped he had given them satisfaction; indeed, he felt that

he had, and the toast they had so kindly drunk was his reward. He always felt a pleasure in receiving the Florence Nightingale Lodge, of which he had the honour to be a member, and hoped they would never have cause to regret that No. 1008 met, for their banquets, at his house. One or two other toasts followed, and the brethren separated, highly delighted with the pleasant evening they had passed, enlivened by good fellowship, good songs, and good cheer.

ROYAL OAK LODGE (No. 1173).—This lodge held its regular meeting on Wednesday, June 24th, at the Royal Oak Tavern, High-street, Deptford (Bro. Stevens). In the unavoidable absence of the W.M., Bro. George Wilton, Bro. Frederick Walters, Secretary, and W.M. Mount Lebanon Lodge (No. 87), took the chair, and, assisted by the officers, opened the lodge in the three degrees. A letter was read from the candidate for raising, apologising for his non-attendance. Bro. G. Wilton then took the chair, and, after some few business matters were disposed of, closed the lodge. Visitors: H. Potter, P.M. 11; J. Lightfoot, S.D. 172; G. Chapman, J.D. 172; J. Potte, I.G. 172.

PROVINCIAL.

CHANNEL ISLES.

JERSEY—*La Cesarée Lodge* (No. 860).—An emergency meeting was held on Thursday, June 11, as the candidates for admission were about to leave the country. At half-past seven precisely the W.M. opened the lodge in the first degree, Bro. Schmitt, P.M., acting as S.W., in the place of the regular officer, whose absence was caused by domestic affliction, Ph. E. Le Sueur being in his chair as J.W. Messrs. J. Alrier and Philip Baudains received the benefit of initiation, at the hands of the W.M., after which the usual Masonic charge was delivered to them. Among the visitors were Bro. Hadol, a distinguished French Mason, and Bro. Capt. Lamb, W.M. of the Justice Lodge, (No. 34), under Irish warrant. The lodge was closed about nine o'clock, about 50 brethren being present, most of whom remained for refreshment. Among other compliments, was a toast in honour of Bro. Hadol, whose energetic reply was listened to with great attention.—The regular monthly meeting was held on Thursday, June 25th, about 50 of the members being present. The lodge was opened by Bro. Durell, W.M. The minutes of the last monthly meeting, and also of an emergency meeting, were read and confirmed. The lodge having been opened in the second degree, Bros. De La Mare and Philip Le Sueur, jun., were duly raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason. The lodge was resumed in the first degree, and a lengthy discussion ensued on matters connected with its internal policy. On the proposition of Bro. De la Mare, a sum of £2 was voted, in addition to a considerable amount contributed privately by the members of the various lodges in the province, for the widow of the late Bro. Plyman, many years Tyler of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Jersey, whose funeral on the previous Tuesday, was attended by the Prov. Grand Master, the W.M.'s of nearly all the lodges, and a considerable number of the brethren, the service being read by the Prov. Grand Chaplain. The lodge having been closed at half-past nine, the brethren adjourned for refreshment, and the subsequent proceedings were characterized by that harmonious and friendly feeling which should at all times prevail among Freemasons.

Yarborough Lodge (No. 302).—The annual dinner on occasion of the installation of the W.M. was held on St. John's Day at the Exeter Inn, this being the eighty-third anniversary of the oldest lodge in the province. The lodge was opened at two p.m. in the first degree by Bro. Ainslie, W.M. The minutes of an emergency meeting and of the last regular meeting were read and confirmed. The W.M. then explained the circumstances which had led to his re-appointment to the first chair for the fifth time, and expressed a hope and confidence that next year another brother would be found to take his place. He explained that as he was labouring under indisposition, it would be convenient to dispense with such parts of the ceremony as were rendered unnecessary by his re-appointment, and called on Bro. Baker, P.M., to assume the W.M.'s chair for the purpose of proceeding with the installation. This having been complied with, and Bro. Ainslie having been again placed at the head of the lodge, the following appointments and investments of officers took place:—Bro. Symes, S.W.; Bro. Breton, J.W.; Bro. Fracy, Sec.; Bro. Jackson, Treas.; Bro.

Garland, S.D.; Bro. Pearson, J.D.; Bro. Monk, I.G.; Bro. H. du Jardin was invested as Tyler for the twenty-first time. The lodge was closed at half-past three with the customary solemnities. At half-past five, about forty of the brethren re-assembled for the banquet. The W.M. presided, supported, on his right by the R.W. the Prov. Grand Master, Bros. Vatcher, Watts, and Durrell, W.M.; and on his left by P.M. Baker, and Bros. Dr. Hopkins, Capt. Lamb, M. Gallichan, and J. Durrell, W.M.'s of other lodges in the province. Bro. Mann, the host, provided an excellent dinner. The usual Masonic toasts were duly honoured, some excellent songs were given, and the evening was spent in a most agreeable manner.

LANCASHIRE, (WEST).

WARRINGTON.—*Lodge of Lights* (No. 173.) The regular monthly meeting of this lodge was held at the Masonic Rooms, Sankey Street, on Monday evening last. Present Bros. H. B. White, W.M.; James Haner, Prov. G. Treas., West Lancashire, as S.W.; John Bower, J.W.; the Rev. J. N. Porter, as S.D.; Charles Pettitt, (S.W. 151) J.D.; Maxfield, P.M., as I.G.; Banister, G.S.B., Prov. G.D.C., West Lancashire, as P.M.; Dr. Spinks, Capt. Knight, R. Stevenson, W. Wood, Matthew L. Trumble (Tudor Lodge, 688, Oldham), and Joseph Robinson, Tyler. The Lodge was opened in due form, when the minutes were read by the Sec., and declared to be correctly recorded. Bro. Robert Stevenson, was passed to the degree of a Fellow Craft. The lodge was then opened in the second degree, Bro. Stevenson was passed by the W.M. in his usually able and correct manner. The tools were explained by Bro. Hamer; the charge delivered by Bro. Pettitt; the second tracing board illustrated by Bro. Banister, and at the conclusion of the ceremony the W.M. explained, compared and illustrated the O.B.'S. of the first and second degrees. The lodge was then closed in the second degree. The W.M. announced the receipt of a copy of the Report of the Royal Masonic Institution, and also the success of a former member of the lodge as a candidate for its benefits. The W.M. then drew special attention to an invitation he had received, inviting the members of the lodge to be present on the occasion of the ceremony of laying the Foundation Stone of the Manchester Masonic Hall, on Saturday, the 25th July, and it was resolved the Bro. Bower, Sec., be requested to address a circular to each member of the lodge, with full information, inviting their presence on the occasion. Bro. Dr. Spinks proposed, and the W.M. seconded, Bro. Matthew Lister Trumble, of the Tudor Lodge, No. 688, Oldham, as a joining member of the lodge. Bro. Banister having expressed "Heartily good wishes," and invited votes in favour of Bro. Sankey, of Liverpool, a candidate for the benefits of the Royal Masonic Institution, the lodge was closed and the brethren adjourned to the ante room for refreshment. The usual loyal and Masonic Toasts were given and responded to, and the brethren separated in harmony at 10 o'clock.

IRELAND.

GRAND MASONIC BANQUET.

The grand banquet given by the Masonic body to his Grace the Duke of Leinster, in commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of his Grace's election to the Grand Mastership of the Order, took place on Wednesday, June 26th, in the Ancient Concert Hall, Dublin, and was accompanied by every circumstance which could contribute to the success, or enhance the *éclat* of a demonstration probably unequalled in the amount of interest which it created, not alone amongst the members of the Masonic body, but on the part of the public generally. The circumstance which the banquet was designed to commemorate, his Grace's completion of half a century of his Grand Mastership of the Order, is an event, we believe, unprecedented in the annals of Masonry, and members of the Craft in every part of Ireland, as well as many from England and Scotland, were anxious to testify their loyalty and attachment to one who has so nobly carried the banner of Masonry through good and evil report, and who, by his influence and example, has materially contributed to the position which the Order now holds, and the respect with which it is regarded in every quarter of the globe. His Grace having been installed as Grand Master on St. John's Day, the 24th of June, 1813, the anniversary of that day was selected as the most fitting occasion on which to pay the well deserved compliment of a public banquet to his Grace,

in testimony of the respect in which he is deservedly held by the Masonic body, and no exertion or expense was spared to render the demonstration one worthy alike of the noble and distinguished guest, the brilliant company by which it was attended, or the high *prestige* of the Order in this country. The Ancient Concert Hall, in which the banquet took place, was tastefully and brilliantly decorated for the occasion. The centre flooring was raised to the level of the orchestra, which was beautifully ornamented with the choicest exotics, evergreens, and native flowers. The walls presented an exceedingly attractive appearance, being adorned with a variety of Masonic devices, flags and banners bearing the emblems of the Craft, including the large flag symbolical of the Order, bearing upon it the emblems of the three cardinal virtues—Faith, Hope, and Charity. A large semicircular dais was erected at the head of the room, on which the chairman, the guest of the evening, and the principal members of the Order were seated. Immediately over his Grace's seat were placed the arms of the Grand Lodge, and behind them, in front of the organ, were three banners, one representing the arms of his Grace's family, bearing the ancient motto of the Geraldines, and the "Ipsis Hibernis Hiberniores," and at either side of this were the Royal Standard of England and the arms of the Prince of Wales. The lighting of the tables, which had been intrusted to Bro. Mooney, of Lower Ormond-quay, was on a grand and most striking scale, and when the company were assembled the *coup d'œil* was one of the most pleasing and attractive which have ever been presented to the eye. Three long ranges of tables, which extended the entire length of the hall, and which afforded ample accommodation, grouned beneath the weight of viands, comprising the choicest delicacies which money could procure, and beneath a mass of plate and ornaments exceeding that presented at any former public banquet. The plate and silver decorations, which were of a most costly description, were supplied by Bro. Thomas Bruncker, of Craftonstreet; many of them were emblematic of Masonry, especially a magnificent centre-piece of solid silver, representing figures of Faith, Hope, and Charity. The arrangement of the decorations was tastefully carried out by Bro. Morau, of Gardnerstreet.

The chair was occupied by the R.W. Dep. G.M., John Fitzhenry Townsend, LL.D.

At the right of the chair sat the guest of the evening, his Grace the Duke of Leinster, and in the immediate vicinity were—Bros. the Hon. George Handcock, G. Sec.; Sir Wm. Hort, Bart, Prov. G.S.; George Hoyte, D. Prov. G.M.; Rev. H. J. Westby, Prov. G. Chap.; Rev. J. J. MacSorley, G.C.; Rev. G. Morrison, G.C.; Arthur Bushe, S.G.D.; Edmund R. D. LaFouche, J.G.D.; Maxwell Close, M.P.; Lowry Balfour; W. S. Tracey, D. P. Prov. G.M.; E. Barton; Colonel Hort, 36th Regiment; C. T. Walmisley, Dep. Grand Sec.; Lucius H. Deering, William Allen, &c. The general company included:—Captain Lindesay, 4th Hussars; Hon. James B. Ogilvy, 32nd Regiment; Captain Wentworth, 4th Hussars; Henry Butler, 4th Hussars; J. C. J. Freemantle, 10th Hussars; Thomas A. St. Quinton, 10th Hussars; John Kennedy, 10th Hussars; Ralph Cusack, Wm. Reid, H. De Burgh, Esq., LL.D.; Thomas M. Archer, Robt. Corbet, Esq.; G. J. Fisher, George Hepburn, Theophilus E. St. George, G.S., G.S.B.; Joseph Manning, G.D. of Ceremonies; A. Moir. C. D. Astley, G. Supt. of Works; H. C. Stephens, C. T. Buchanan, H. Ingram, H. T. Cusack, T. W. Kinahan, J. A. Baker, Francis Quin, G.O.; Wade Foott, George Armstrong, Hugh O'Reilly, Thos. M. Gresham, Jas. C. Lovely, Alex. Gore, T. H. Parkinson, Captain Corrigan, 3rd Dragoons; R. Leetch, John T. Manverton, Andrew Browne, H. Bastable, Thomas Dobbin, William Dobbin, B. Moran, William Bloomfield, George Young, George Johnston, J. Whittington, H. Jolly, Joliffe Tuffnell, M.D.; Henry B. Haffield, M.D.; James V. Mackey, James Kellett, John Ringland, M.D.; William Acheson, R. Geoghegan, Geo. J. Alexander, William K. Clay, J. M. Neligan, M.D.; James Claridge, James Ireland, G. G. Aylmer, Thomas Fry, Captain W. Gibson, Charles Grubb, T. B. Blackley, M. H. Anderson, H. B. Johnston, Frederick L. Mergan, Francis R. Fennessey, John Hodges, R. W. Espey, A. F. Jones, S. Hussey, James West, R. W. Shekleton, Richard W. Boyle, Patrick J. Russell, Rev. James Rice, A. M. Harte, R. D. Speedy, M.D.; S. B. Oldham, Robert T. M'Clure, Noblet St. Ledger, Captain Cunningham, Henry L. Hall, W. J. Sidney, Charles F. Goodwin, Lewis Harris, John Boon, Jonathan Bruce, Thomas M. Wood, William Bruce, Thomas Hanna, B. E. Whitestone, Captain W. W. Fortescue, James Girdwood, William

Girdwood, Henry Murray, John Paine, W. Barre, Henry Ebbs, P. N. Jackson, Alfred Martin, James Allen, N. J. Daly, Charles W. Simms, E. H. Casey, Alexander Edie, Thos. Brunner, W. E. Gumbleton, J. Foyle, T. T. Meccredy, W. Parry, R. H. Henry, James Wilson, Thomas Wilson, H. St. George, Frederick Crowe, George Powell.

The dinner was supplied by Bro. Jude, of Grafton-street, and was of a most *recherché* description; the wines were from the cellars of Bros. Deering and Hancock, and afforded equal satisfaction.

At half-past eight o'clock ladies were admitted to the gallery, and between 150 and 200 availed themselves of the privilege, refreshments having been previously supplied to them in the dining-room of the Catch Club. On entering the gallery they were received with loud applause by the gentlemen present. The children maintained in the Masonic Orphan Asylum were also seated in the gallery, and any one looking at them could not fail to feel gratified at their neat and healthy appearance, which testified to the care which is bestowed upon them by the managers of this most excellent institution.

The dinner having concluded,

The CHAIRMAN said he was about to give a toast which they all well knew was the first to be proposed at every assembly where Masons met for enjoyment. They were all aware that loyalty to the Sovereign under whose sway they lived had been inculcated on the members of the Masonic Order for more than 1000 years, ever since Prince Edwin assembled the first Grand Lodge of York. (Hear, hear.) Every one present knew that it was the duty of members of the body to be peaceable subjects, not to be concerned in plots against the State, but to labour industriously to maintain the good name of the Order. (Hear, hear.) Loyalty was the principle inculcated by every true Mason—attachment to the Government under which they lived—in order not merely to insure the benefits and blessings of peace and civilisation to themselves, but to extend these inestimable blessings to all mankind. (Hear, hear.) They trusted that the laws of England would diffuse those blessings to the extreme limits of the earth. The loyalty of Masons was not merely an abstract principle—(Hear, hear.)—but it was a feeling of attachment to the lady who fills the throne of these realms. Called to that high position when she was a mere girl, her Majesty has shown to her people the highest and noblest example of all those virtues which alone could make home happy, and which constitute the holiest character whether in a peasant or a princess. (Applause.) The toast was received with due honours.

The CHAIRMAN—I have now to give you the health of him who stands on the steps of the throne, though we all trust it will be many a long year before he ascends those steps. (Hear, hear.) I believe the Prince of Wales has not yet joined our Order, as many of his noble ancestors have done. Many of the Sovereigns of England have exchanged the sceptre for the trowel, taken part in our ceremonies, and have been glad to decorate themselves with our badges, and seek the preferment which is due to personal merit only. I trust we may ere long have the Prince of Wales as a brother amongst us. (Hear, hear.) In the mean time we must ever hope that whenever he may be, in the providence of God, called upon to rule these kingdoms, his reign may be glorious,—glorious not with the glory that is derived from strife and bloodshed, from desolated homes and devastated cities,—but the glory that proceeds from civilisation, and from the promotion of those arts and sciences which his noble father did so much to promote. (Hear, hear.) Glorious in all those virtues that our Order is intended to promote; and if it must be otherwise—if, indeed, foreign armies should tread our shores, and compel us to take up arms in defence of the throne of Great Britain and the descendants of our ancient line of monarchs, I am quite sure that among the Freemasons of this kingdom will be found many ready to stand by their legitimate Sovereign with their fortunes and with their lives. (Loud applause.) I shall, therefore, give you "The Prince and Princess of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family." (Applause.) The accession of the Princess of Wales to the high position which she fills was recently celebrated by our Order, in common with all our fellow-subjects, and we hope she will be happy in her new and exalted sphere. The toast was warmly received.

The CHAIRMAN.—After our allegiance to the ruler of the people, our homage is to the ruler of the Craft. (Loud Applause.) But while the law enjoins obedience to the authorities which it sets over us, and enforces that obedience by the

severest penalties, the ruler of the Craft has no other hold upon us than that which is obtained by the influence which naturally follows our respect and affection for him. To say that we respect the Grand Master is to say that we participate in the feeling of Irishmen. (Hear.) I believe the whole community respect a nobleman who is placed at the head of the Irish peerage, and who is the chief of the illustrious family of the Geraldines. (Applause.) Which, in my humble opinion, is a prouder honour than even his ducal rank. The Duke of Leinster has passed the greater part of his honoured life in the quiet of his country seat, among his own people, intent upon the duties of a great landed proprietor, ever ready to assist in every work of utility in which his country's benefit is concerned. We certainly respect such a man. We respect a man who rises above the petty intricacies of party, and who is free from that spirit of extravagance which has reduced so many a noble house to ruin, and caused the possessions of the hereditary noble to pass into the hands of strangers. (Hear, hear.) We, of course, respect such a man; but when we consider him as for 50 years our Grand Master (Loud and continued applause)—when we meet him coming thus amongst us once more, as our brother and our guest—we are bound certainly to bestow upon him the highest acclamation which our hearts and hands can offer. (Applause.) It has been your pleasure, my brethren of the Grand Lodge, to present an address to the Duke, and I will not delay you from hearing that address, which you will hear now for the first time. It has been placed very lately in my hands by the committee who prepared it, and they have, I think, expressed your sentiments and feelings better than I could do. (Applause.)

The Deputy Grand Master then read the address as follows:—
"To his Grace Augustus Frederick, Duke of Leinster, Grand Master of the Freemasons of Ireland.

"MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND MASTER,—The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Ireland beg leave to present to your Grace, on this, the 50th anniversary of your election to the office of their Grand Master, their grateful acknowledgment of the fidelity and care with which you have upheld the institution of Freemasonry, and their admiration of the purity of life and rectitude of purpose which have uniformly distinguished your Grace's career.

"We believe that the records of our order throughout the world afford no other instance of the re-election of the same individual to the office of Grand Master during a period of 50 consecutive years. We may, therefore, congratulate your Grace on that distinction; and still more on the fact that, during the long period in which the unanimous suffrages of the Grand Lodge of Ireland have placed you at the head of a society, the very basis of whose social compact is freedom and independence, and in which personal merit alone gives any just claim to distinction, the Masonic Order in Ireland has been progressively advancing in prosperity, influence, respectability, and usefulness, to an extent hitherto unprecedented in its history. We believe this result to be attributable in no slight degree to the advantages the Society has enjoyed under your Grace's wise, temperate, and vigilant superintendance.

"Ever zealous in the furtherance of our great design, your Grace has united the whole body of Freemasons in Ireland in the strictest amity and fraternity, and in the most cordial harmony and good-will. Steady and firm of purpose, you have ruled us on all occasions of difficulty with gentleness and moderation, but with an inflexible impartiality, which, while it commanded our respect, has likewise won our confidence. Affable and courteous to all, your personal demeanour amongst us has gained the favour of our whole community, and those who have had the honour of being associated with you in the management of its affairs have ever borne with them the most grateful and pleasing reminiscences of your kindness and condescension, the genuine result of that benevolent and unassuming spirit which alone is true nobility. Nor should we omit to acknowledge your munificence to the asylum provided for the orphan children of our brethren; in that, as in all other respects, you have set us an example not only worthy of our praise, but, according to our several means and opportunities, of our imitation likewise.

"We respectfully offer to your Grace, on your own behalf, and on the part of the great fraternity which we represent, our cordial and enthusiastic greetings and salutations on this happy anniversary. We trust that you will long continue to fill the high and dignified position which you have now for half a century occupied and adorned in our time-honoured and revered institution. We implore the Great Architect of the universe to

grant you yet many years of life to enjoy, in health and comfort, the great blessings with which His providence has favoured you; and we pray that when, in His good time, He shall call you hence to His more immediate presence, you may calmly depart in peace, full of years and honours, bearing with you the affection of your Masonic brethren, and the approbation and esteem of all good men; and leaving to your descendants that inheritance—in comparison of which the noble house of Fitzgerald has ever esteemed its lofty station and its great possessions as things of very little moment—an unblemished name and a respected memory.

“Signed, on behalf of the Grand Lodge of Ireland,

“John Fitzhenry Townsend, Deputy G.M.

“Donoughmore, Senior G.W.

“Edward R. Borough, Bart., Junior G.W.

George Handcock, Grand Secretary.”

The reading of the address was frequently interrupted by warm applause, and at its conclusion the Grand Master was saluted according to ancient custom.

His Grace the DUKE OF LEINSTER, in rising to reply, was received with loud applause. He said—Ladies and Brethren,—I thank you most sincerely for the manner in which you have received my health, and for the very handsome address which has now been presented to me. (Applause.) Brethren, I have so often met kindness at your hands, that I really do not know how to address you. My feelings are almost overcome, and I speak with peculiar difficulty. Proud I am, I assure you, to think that I have been 50 years your Grand Master. (Applause.) When I first joined the Order it was in a very different position from that which it occupies now. I was obliged the other day to write to Bro. Walmisley to ask him where the Grand Lodge met at the time of my installation in 1813, and he wrote to me saying that, on referring to the records, he found it was in Tailors' Hall, Back Lane. (Laughter.) Masonry was at a very low ebb when I joined it 50 years ago. My experience is that, no matter how good or great the Sovereign, or how great the Minister of a country, if the people will not take advantage of this and try to benefit themselves, no country can flourish; and it is the same with parents and children. I do not take any credit for the position the Order occupies at present, for it is entirely owing to yourselves. You supported me in every way by your own good conduct and good wishes, and you brought the Order into the state it is in at present. I believe that in no country in the world where Freemasonry exists has it attained a higher position than in this country. (Hear, hear.) You put yourselves voluntarily under control, and I believe that all the different grades of our Order are in a better position in this country than in any other in the world. It is an Order that I have always been very much attached to; and I am sure most of the brethren here could mention different circumstances where brotherly affection and the ties of Masonry have been exceedingly useful. I will mention one circumstance that happened to myself. Many years ago our Grand Treasurer was a Bro. Townsend, since deceased. He went to London for change of air and medical advice, as he was very unwell. I heard he was there, and happening to be in London at the time, I called upon him. He was, of course, very glad to see me, for we met as Masons. Just before I left for Ireland I called upon him, and bade him good-bye. He said to me—“Do you know who I am? I am the editor of the *Correspondent* newspaper, most violently opposed to you in politics,” for politics rose very high at that time. (Laughter.) “Not one of my political friends,” he continued, “or any of the people I have supported, have called upon me or sent an inquiry after me, and you, a Radical Mason, came to see me.” (Laughter.) At that time politics were very strong, and I was looked upon as a Radical. I bade him good-bye and came back to Ireland, and very shortly afterwards, I heard of his death. That made a great impression upon me, as showing the use of Freemasonry, particularly in this country, where there are so many people of different creeds and politics. (Hear, hear.) I have again to thank you for your very great kindness, but I cannot sit down without offering my most grateful thanks to the Great Architect of the Universe for giving me health and strength to preside over you so long. (Loud applause.)

The CHAIRMAN—I will propose to you another toast, and before I introduce it to you I wish to premise that I am a man in bodily presence, and not a mere spirit, as you might have supposed from what his Grace has said of somebody of my name who is defunct long ago. (Laughter.) I know that with a good many of you I have interchanged that firm and cordial grasp that only belongs to flesh and blood. (Laughter.) But

as there are some in the room whom I fear I cannot hope to convince of my vitality by such means, I shall ask you to suppose that I am he whom some of you have long known; and to prove my identity I will give you once more the toast of “The Grand Masters of England and Scotland.” (Laughter and applause.) They had been invited to honour us with their presence, and I wish they had done so; for I do not believe there is any instance except the present, of the Order meeting to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the reign of their Grand Master. I am sorry they have not come. However, I am sure of their good feeling towards us. It cannot be expected that in this season of the year persons who occupy so high a place in society as is filled by many of them could spare time from their Parliamentary duties. I would conclude by proposing the toast and by hoping that peace and amity will ever reign between us. (Applause.)

The toast was drunk with all the honours, and the Grand Masters of England and Scotland were saluted according to Masonic custom.

The CHAIRMAN next proposed, “The Foreign Grand Lodges with whom we are in correspondence.” He said Masonry is meant to unite in honourable and social bonds men of all nations and kingdoms, whomsoever they may be; and, whenever a brother from any other country comes amongst us, I trust he will not have any reason to complain of Irish hospitality being deficient. (Hear, hear.) I myself have had the honour to represent a foreign Grand Lodge, the Grand Orient of France. That honour I have had to resign into the hands of a more efficient representative, Sir Edward Borough; but while I held that position I had an opportunity of knowing the benefit which a stranger finds in having some person to whom he can apply in difficulty; and it was more than once my duty (I trust I will be believed when I say it was my pleasure also) to be instrumental in relieving the distress of foreigners who visited this country. (Applause.) I also trust that those who were so relieved were convinced that Masonry is not a mere name, but a substantial benefit; and I have known more than one who have gone out of the country having found the practical benefit of belonging to our body, which is daily spreading over the whole habitable world, and which, I trust, will be instrumental in diffusing many blessings amongst the human race. (Applause.) It may not be known that there is an international system of representation—that many of the foreign Grand Lodges are represented in this country by members of our own body, and that we have selected in almost every nation where Masonry is established our own representative, in order that we may have some accredited person there to make known our wants and wishes. It was lately my duty to install into the Grand Lodge of Ireland, in the position of representative of a new European Grand Lodge, a brother whom I have the pleasure to meet here this evening, who fills the high position of a professor in our university, and who, during his long residence in this country, has gained the good will and esteem of every one who knows him—a gentleman by birth, a gentleman by conduct, and a gentleman in manners,—a man of whom I would speak more freely if I did not see him sitting very near me—Bro. Signor Marani. (Applause.) I look upon him as the youngest member of the body, because he is the representative of the youngest Grand Lodge that has any communication with the Grand Lodge of Ireland; and though many of you are aware that we have representative in Italy you, may not be aware of the fact that it is only since Italy gained her independence that a Grand Lodge of Freemasons has been permitted there, and that the day has not long gone past when to carry the certificate or wear the insignia of Masonry was a sure introduction to an Austrian prison. I rejoice that that day has passed. (Hear, hear.) It is not right to introduce even European politics into a place like this, so I will say no more than ask you to receive the toast with honour. (Applause.)

The toast was drunk amid cheers, and the foreign Grand Lodges were saluted.

Signor MARANI responded. He said:—R. W. Deputy Grand Master, Grand Officers, and Brothers,—It is with extreme diffidence I rise to return you thanks in adequate words for the toast that you proposed, and this highly distinguished assembly so warmly accepted with expressions of deeply felt sympathy for the advancement and prosperity of this most ancient and most illustrious order in the various countries whose representatives have the honour of being here present, to commemorate an event of the greatest historical importance in the

annals of Masonry in general, and of the Grand Lodge of Ireland in particular. This feeling of distrust in my ability would be very great indeed had I assumed the task of answering to your kind wishes in the name of the Grand Orient of Italy, whose humble representative I have the honour to be—an honour which I owe exclusively to the good feelings of many of the brethren now seated in this hall, and certainly not to my personal merits. But when I think that many other nations have their representatives here, and many of them,—in fact all of them,—more endowed with ability, more exalted in the Order, and more accustomed to public speaking, indeed, right worshipful Sir, I cannot help considering my undertaking rather rash, and would abandon even the thought of addressing you, were I not animated by the desire of expressing to you publicly what I have already inwardly experienced, a sense of deeply felt gratitude for the Masonic honours already conferred on me, and for having afforded me this not less appreciated honour, of assisting at the fiftieth anniversary of the installation of our noble and dearly beloved Grand Master, his Grace the Duke of Leinster. It is well, indeed, that we, the representatives of the grand lodges of France, America, Portugal, and Italy, should assist at the celebration of so solemn an event—an event that cannot be reproduced during our lifetime—an event that, while it throws a halo of religious antiquity around our institution, shrouds the venerable head of your Grand Master in that imperishable light of fame and renown that even death cannot obscure, and shall remain as a precious heirloom, to remind posterity of the merits and virtues of our present Grand Master. Yes, right worshipful sir, it is with unfeigned joy I congratulate you for this great event, and I congratulate you and the Masonic brothers of green Erin, for having had, during half a century, continually before their eyes a pattern of all social and moral virtues, equalled, perhaps, but never surpassed by any other nobleman, either here or abroad. That the Grand Masonic lodges in far distant lands may have the happiness of possessing such a ruler, and that the Great Architect of the Universe, in his merciful dispensation, may grant them such a leader and counsellor. Such is the desire I now form, for, indeed, Masonic Italy, if placed under similar circumstances, would soon reach that eminence now proudly occupied by the Freemasons of Ireland. It is only through the zeal and perseverance of your noble Grand Master that the Order in Ireland has been able to stand the brunt of superstitious and ignorant foes, who, under the false zeal of religion, pretend, though they could not believe it, that a philosophical institution, having for its foundation the Book of Books, and for its guiding principles fraternity, liberty, and equality, could have any thing to do with the plotting schemes of bloodthirsty assassins, filling with horror and consternation your otherwise happy and tranquil valleys. From hellish intolerance and mediæval bigotry sprang those societies that here and there infested and desolate some parts of this island, whilst Masonry has always proved to be the handmaid of civilisation, the offspring of philosophy, the nurse of liberty, without which the world would be trampled under foot by the dastardly Croatian or the cruel Cossack, laying waste to the old bulwarks of modern civilization—Italy and the unhappy although heroic Poland. Masonry appears where freedom dwells. It is great in these happy realms, because it grows under the fostering shade of the glorious British Constitution; it progresses in Belgium and Portugal under the protection of two enlightened sovereigns; it has already assumed colossal proportions in Italy, although scarcely issuing from amidst the ruins of broken sceptres and overturned thrones, and there, as here and everywhere, it inscribes in its rolls both rank and fortune, stretching its hand to the humblest and spreading its light to the remotest regions of the earth. Unassuming in its conquering march, tolerant in its dogmas, equitable in its laws, moral in its teaching, careless of calumny, always looking on to future peaceful conquests, and never avenging its wrongs, but with the good it imparts to the human family,—such is Masonry. And why should it be otherwise? Is it not founded on the Word of God? And is it not the Word of God that commands us to love our neighbours as ourselves? If Masonry should boast of any other foundation than the Bible, certainly it could not have stood so many ages,—it could not have been able to avert the would-be crushing blow of a modern Paladin, who forgot that the dark ages of tyrannous superstition had passed away, and could not be renewed in the latter half of the 19th century without razing to the ground the immense edifice of civilisation, to which Masonry undoubtedly lent a friendly hand. But, Most Worshipful Grand Master, Right Worshipful Deputy Grand

Master, Grand Officers, and Brothers here present, I see I have already outstripped the limits of your patience. I thought I had but a few words to say. The pleasing argument before me furnished me with ample materials, roughly handled by me I confess, but not the less acceptable to my feelings as being so warmly attached to an institution so unisonant with the dream of all my life—liberty to all, fraternity and equality to each of the human family in that walk of life it has pleased our Supreme Maker to place us in. Again I return you my warmest thanks on behalf of your foreign brothers, and, humbly entreating his Grace the Duke of Leinster, your Most Worshipful Grand Master, to receive my good wishes and congratulations for the happy event we celebrate here this evening, I conclude by wishing his Grace many years more of happy and successful reign over his peaceful subjects—the Free and Accepted Masons of Ireland.

His Grace the DUKE OF LEINSTER said—With the permission of the Deputy Grand Master, it gives me great pleasure to propose the next toast, because, to the Deputy Grand Master and the officers of the society I am most particularly indebted, for taking all trouble off my hands. It is to them I have to look in the carrying on of the business in the Grand Lodge; and I cannot, in proposing the health of the Grand Officers, express to you too warmly what I feel for my Bro. Townsend. In all my Masonic communication with him I could not fail to be struck with his good sense, his kind and gentlemanly feeling, and his wish in every way to promote the good of the Order. Brethren I am particularly indebted to him. Indeed, for all that has taken place I cannot take any credit to myself. There is one circumstance that I beg to mention that many of you may not be aware of. In the year 1836 there was an Act of Parliament brought in to make some alteration in the Constabulary, and in that Act there was a clause inserted that no Freemason could be in the Constabulary. I very fortunately was in the House of Lords at the time, and I moved that that clause should be left out of the bill. (Applause.) Strange to say, several lords, whose acquaintance I had not the honour of, came over to me, besides some friends of mine, and they said they knew nothing about Masonry, but if I would vouch that there was no harm in Masonry they would vote for my motion. I said, "I have no hesitation in giving that pledge;" and when we came to the vote the numbers were—for the motion 44, against it, 41. (Cheers.) At that time the Grand Lodge of England thought so much of what I had done, that they voted me a most handsome address. I had also an address from the Grand Lodge of Ireland. I merely mention this because it is a curious fact, and it is the only case where I take to myself the credit of being personally of any use to Masonry. The toast I have to propose is, "The Deputy Grand Master, and the rest of the Grand Officers." (Applause.)

The DEPUTY GRAND MASTER said—I beg leave to return thanks on my own part and on the part of the Grand Officers, for the kind way in which you have received our names. We are well aware, indeed, that the noble Duke's name has been to us a tower of strength, and it has been for a long time a guarantee to the public of the purity of our principles and the innocence of our pursuits; and whatever may be said against us, we have but to point to the name that is foremost on the list of our Grand Officers, and that will be a sufficient answer. I beg to express Lord Donoughmore's apologies that he is not able to be present on this occasion. The next in rank to him is Sir Edward Borough, whose absence is caused by a recent domestic affliction. I have also to say that Bro. Mostyn, G. Treas., greatly regrets that he is not able to come in person to show to your Grace the respect which we all know he would be among the foremost to offer. I look upon his absence as a great loss, for he has been mainly instrumental in enabling me to carry on the business of the Order in the manner which has elicited your approbation. (Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN then proposed "The Past Grand Officers," to whom the Craft owed a deep debt of gratitude. No one could speak more feelingly than he (the Chairman) could of those who had preceded him. He was right glad to see his predecessor in office amongst them. He also saw a most respected friend of the Order, who had been enabled to give them a great deal of assistance—Sir William Hort. Many of the brethren would be able to value such services as his. He should also, before he sat down, mention the name of another of their friends who was present, but he had some delicacy in introducing his name in such an assembly as this, having been connected with him in office for many years. He (the Chairman) knew he shrank from

having his name brought forward. He meant Bro. Westly. (Applause.) He (the chairman) could not forget that it is to Bro. Westly, amongst others, that we owe, having amongst us the Masonic School of which we are so justly proud. (Applause.)

Alderman HORT, Past Deputy G.M., responded. He felt deeply the flattering manner in which the toast had been received, and assured his brethren that he would always be happy to occupy a position of office in the order of which he was proud to be a member.

Sir WILLIAM HORT, *Bart.*, in responding, said it had been his honour to travel up the hill of Masonic life for 50 years, and he believed there were few who could look back to so long a period of Masonic career. He had had the honour of working with his Grace, and it was gratifying to him to look round to this party, who had met with the common object of paying a tribute of respect and gratitude to the man who had brought the body to what it was. Fifty years ago, when he commenced his Masonic career, it was a small and, comparatively speaking, an insignificant body. By the good tact, good feeling, and generosity of the illustrious Grand Master, they were all aware what the Craft had been raised to, and it was gratifying to him, after 50 years' up-hill work, to be received in the way he had been on this occasion. (Applause.)

Bro. the Rev. HENRY WESTBY, P.G. Chap., said he was taken quite by surprise, and was somewhat embarrassed at the honour that had been conferred upon him by coupling his name with the toast. No doubt he filled the office of Grand Chaplain for twelve years, and he did so to the best of his ability; but he did not know that his name would be brought forward on this occasion. He was proud of the fact that he had assisted in bringing forward the brightest gem of the Masonic body, the Female Orphan School. (Applause.) He was amply rewarded by the high position it held, and he hoped it would long continue to hold it. He had held every grade, from Entered Apprentice up to the high position he now held (33rd degree), and the more he knew of Masonry the more he would do to serve it. He was under a deep debt of gratitude to his Grace the Duke, not only in this Order, but outside it, for his Grace had placed him not only high up in his position of Masonry, but also high up in his profession; and he only hoped that God might spare him to discharge his duties with unsullied integrity. (Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN then gave "The Provincial Grand Masters and the Provincial Grand Officers." The advancement of Masonry through the provinces was one of the great principles of the institution; and he was glad to see near him a brother from the North, Bro. Tracy. (Applause.) He (the Chairman) embraced this opportunity of returning him his own thanks, and, he might add, the thanks of the Grand Lodge, for the manner in which he had fulfilled his duties in the provinces. He had removed lately to near Dublin, and had not been idle for he had already originated the Alexandra Lodge at Bray, which promised to be one of the best in the community. He would couple his (Bro. Tracy's) name with the toast. (Applause.)

Bro. TRACY responded. He said Belfast could challenge comparison with any other of the provincial towns, not only for its adherence to the theories, but to the practical doctrines of Freemasonry. He could also say that the manner in which they performed their duty to Masons who had been cast amongst them by misfortune had been creditable. A short time ago an American vessel was wrecked on the coast, and amongst those saved was a Mason, who came to Belfast. He addressed himself to a Mason, and give him that proof which Masons could easily give, that he was such. The brother went out, and in the space of half an hour brought back a full outfit for the sailor, and 10 sovereigns to take him home. (Applause.) That was one of many instances he could give of the operations of Masonry in Belfast. He was very sorry that the Marquis of Donegal was not present to do honour to his Grace the Duke of Leinster, but the Marquis was absent from an unavoidable cause.

The CHAIRMAN then gave "The Committee of the Banquet." The arrangements made by the committee had given the most general and complete satisfaction, and it would be ungrateful in him if he did not mention the names of those who had done much towards the success of the entertainment—Bros. Oldham, Quinn, and, though last not least, Bro. Manning, the Grand Dir. of Cers. (Applause.)

Bro. the Hon. GEORGE HANDCOCK responded. A duty of no ordinary difficulty had devolved upon the committee, and they had discharged that duty to the best of their ability. It

would be quite sufficient thanks for their trouble and loss of time in getting up this entertainment to find the toast so warmly received.

The CHAIRMAN then gave the last toast—"The Ladies in the Gallery, with thanks for their attendance." (Applause.) He did so with great embarrassment, for it was seldom their good fortune to be looked upon, as they were on this occasion, by so many fair faces. This Masonic banquet had been the first in Ireland at which ladies had been allowed to be present, and they now had an opportunity of seeing for themselves what Masonic festivals are, and what terrible people Masons were. (Laughter.) It would be vain to assure their fair visitors that to tell the great Masonic secret would be far more difficult than to keep it. (Laughter.) They would still think there was some frightful mystery concealed, which they were excluded from knowing by the popular prejudice that a woman cannot keep a secret; but he (the Chairman) had known a lady to keep a secret right well. (Laughter.) To tell a man's own secret was folly; to tell those of another was not only folly but treachery; and he hoped that their fair friends, if they trusted any Mason, would find that he had learned the heart of holding his tongue. He said:—I have been just asked by a brother near me, how we are to salute "The Ladies?" I am sorry to say we have scarcely an established precedent. Yet I think I know what would be the most acceptable way of saluting our fair guests, though I must not dare to tell it. (Laughter.) So I give you—"The Ladies," with three times three.

The toast was received with loud cheers.

Mr. ARTHUR BURNER responded to the toast in a very humorous speech.

His Grace the Duke left about 12 o'clock, and the company soon after separated.

THE WEEK.

THE COURT.—Her Majesty, accompanied by the Queen of Prussia and the Princess Helena, come to town on Friday, and visited the South Kensington Museum, the Horticultural Gardens, and the Memorial Statute of the Prince Consort. The Queen, we are happy to say, appeared in excellent health. At the close of the visit the Royal party returned to Windsor. On Friday, the 28th, the Guards gave a grand ball in honour of the Prince and Princess of Wales, which may be fairly described as the most brilliant entertainment of this most brilliant season. Nothing could exceed the animation and splendour of the scene when the whole company were assembled in the ball-room to welcome the Prince and Princess of Wales on their arrival. On Monday their Royal Highnesses gave a ball at Buckingham Palace. A telegram from Copenhagen announces the death of the hereditary Prince Frederick Ferdinand. The prince, who was uncle to the King of Denmark, and great uncle to the Princess of Denmark, and great uncle to the Princess of Wales, died suddenly on Monday morning. He was in the 72nd year of his age.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.—In the HOUSE OF LORDS, on Thursday, the 25th ult., Lord Chelmsford, when their lordships were in committee on the Leases and Sales of Settled Estates Act Amendment Bill, moved the insertion of a clause giving power to Sir Thomas Wilson to get rid of the obligations imposed upon him in regard to Hampstead Heath. After some little discussion the clause was agreed to.—The Volunteers Bill passed through committee with some amendments, and several other bills were advanced a stage.—On Friday, Lord Brougham asked whether Commodore Wilmot's report of his mission to Dahomey had been communicated to the Government of Spain? The report showed that Spain alone was responsible for the continuance of the slave trade. Earl Russell said the despatches had not been communicated to Spain, but he saw no objection to such a course being taken.—Earl Shaftesbury, in moving for returns in relation to Bethlehem Hospital, went into a lengthy statement with a view of showing that the charity was not well

administered. Earl Granville granted the returns, and complimented the noble earl on the speech which he had made.—In reply to the Marquis of Clanricarde, Earl Russell said the decision of the judge of the American Prize Court in reference to the *Dolphin* had been received. The doctrine relied on was that laid down by Lord Stowell and Sir W. Grant, but he offered no opinion as to whether the case was rightly decided, considering the circumstances.—In reply to another question, Earl Russell said that no communication had been received from the Emperor of the French proposing the recognition of the Southern States of America. His lordship added that he had not changed his opinions on the subject of recognition.—Several bills were advanced a stage.—On Monday, the Royal assent was given by Commission to several bills.—Lord Brougham withdrew the Sutors Conciliation Bill, in which he proposed to render County Court Judges useful as arbitrators in suits by consent of parties, and introduced another measure for the establishment of "Courts of Conciliation."—After a brief discussion on the case of the expelled settlers of Taranaki, New Zealand, Lord Russell appealed to the Marquis of Clanricarde not to bring on a debate on the Polish question, as a reply to Russia to the notes of the three Powers had not yet been received. The noble Marquis, of course, postponed his motion.—On Tuesday, Earl Russell said he had no information as to the knouting of ladies in Poland by the order of General Mouravieff. In reference to American affairs his lordship stated that about an hour before he came down to the House, the French Ambassador had called upon him, and stated that he had no orders to make any propositions such as it had been reported the French Emperor intended to make, in respect to interference in the American war.—The Earl of Derby then drew attention to the cession of the Ionian Islands. In doing so he designated that cession as impolitic, and expressed strong doubts as to whether it was desired by the bulk of the Ionian Islanders. Earl Russell defended the course which the Government had taken.—In the HOUSE OF COMMONS on Thursday, 25th ult., Sir G. Grey, in reply to a question from Mr. Dawson, with reference to the recent melancholy death of a London seamstress, said he did not think it was possible to establish a system of registering milliners' establishments, but, if a private member brought in a bill for the regulation of these places of business, he promised that the Government would willingly consider it.—A conversation took place on the Crawley affair, and, although some members appear to have objected to the cost of bringing Captain Crawley and the necessary witnesses from India, the decision of the Government to hold the court-martial in England was generally approved.—Mr. Layard stated, in reply to a question from Mr. Bright, that King Leopold's decision on one of the points in dispute between England and Brazil had been received, and would be at once printed.—Mr. Haasey Vivian called attention to the circumstance that the Small Arms Committee had, in point of efficiency, placed the Whitworth and other rifles before the Government arms. Lord Hartington said the Government were not prepared to re-arm the service until every test had been applied with the view of ascertaining which was the best weapon. Meanwhile, however, the Rifle Brigade and the 60th rifles would be armed with the Whitworth, which would thus have its merits fairly tried.—A debate then followed in reference to the manner in which the estimates were presented. General Peel contended that there was a regular excess of expenditure owing to the vote of credit system. Mr. Baring, Mr. F. Peel, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer all spoke in support of the system; and, after a few words from Mr. Disraeli, a discussion arose on the question of small arms.

This and some other subjects being disposed of, the House went into committee of supply, and was occupied for some time with the Irish education and other votes.—On Friday, the House held a morning sitting, which was occupied with the consideration of the clauses of the Public Works Bill, which finally passed through committee. Mr. Bentinck, the member for Norfolk, and Mr. Busfield Ferrand contended that the bill was inadequate to meet the crisis, and that a system of emigration ought to have formed part of the Government scheme for the relief of the distress. Mr. Ferrand, of course, strongly denounced the Lancashire manufacturers, and accused them of standing aloof while their workpeople were starving. Mr. Turner, Colonel Wilson Patten, and Mr. Villiers replied to these reckless and unfounded charges. Mr. Adderley expressed his regret that no provision was made for emigration, and stated that some of the colonies, in sending home money for the relief of the distress, desired that a portion of their contributions should be devoted to this purpose. Colonel William Patten, however declared that in no case was such a condition attached to the contributions received from the colonies by the Central Relief Committee.—At the evening sitting, a long debate took place on Mr. Bernal Osborne's motion for a select committee to inquire into "the present ecclesiastical settlement in Ireland," ending in an adjournment.—On Monday, Mr. Layard stated, in answer to a question, that no reply had yet been received from Russia to the notes as to Poland.—On the report of the bill for lending money to the distressed districts to carry out public works there was a short discussion. The bill was, however, ordered for a third reading.—On the report of supply being brought up an interesting discussion took place in reference to recent decisions in the American prize courts. Mr. Peacocke said that in the cases of the *Dolphin* and the *Pearl* a new principle had been introduced into international law, and he complained that the government had not made any representations to the government of the United States on the subject. The Solicitor-General replied that there had been no new principle introduced by the recent decisions. The decisions were in accordance with the dictum of Lord Stowell, and we ourselves had acted upon the same principle. He paid a high compliment to the ability of the judges of the American Prize Courts. Lord Robert Cecil continued the debate very much in Mr. Peacocke's tone, and Mr. Cobden replied to him. Mr. Seymour Fitzgerald made some observations, and then the matter dropped.—After a brief discussion on our diplomatic establishments, the adjourned debate on the Irish Church was resumed, and occupied the greater part of the evening. A motion for an adjournment of the debate was negatived, and another for adjourning the House carried, thus getting rid of the question.—On Tuesday, the House had a morning sitting, at which some progress was made with the Irish Fisheries Bill.—At the evening sitting, in reply to Mr. Horsfall, Mr. Layard said that the clearance of the *Gibraltar*, alias the *Sumter*, had been stopped, because she was shipping guns of heavy calibre, which it was thought were intended to be used as an armament for her. It had since been ascertained that they could not be used for that purpose, and the clearance would now be granted. Lord Robert Cecil put a further question on the subject, and read a letter from the owners of the vessel, in which they stated that the Collector of Customs at Liverpool informed them that if the guns had been for the Federals they would not have been stopped. The Solicitor-General declared that there was not the slightest foundation for such a story, and said the fact that it had been made should be a warning to the House to be very cautious how they accepted any statement from the same source. In reply to Mr. Forster, Mr. Layard stated that no communi-

cation had been received from the French Government since last autumn in reference to interference in the American war. The questions having been disposed of, Mr. Roebuck moved his resolution for the recognition of the Southern States. Mr. Roebuck entered at length into the history of the dispute, and contended that the Confederates had fully established their claim to recognition, as an independent Power. He narrated what passed at his late interview with the Emperor of the French, and pledged his word that the Emperor had stated he was more than ever anxious to interfere in the American war. Mr. Lindsay seconded the motion. Lord Robert Montagu moved an amendment in favour of neutrality, and denounced Mr. Roebuck's conduct in the strongest possible terms. Arguing the question, he contended that the time for recognition had not come. Mr. Clifford followed in the same strain. The Chancellor of the Exchequer opposed Mr. Roebuck's motion. While he regarded the war as of a hopeless character, he altogether condemned the proposal to recognise the Southern States at this time. Mr. W. E. Forster subsequently pointed out the necessity of maintaining a strict neutrality, and Mr. Bright followed on the same side. The debate was ultimately adjourned to Thursday.—On Wednesday Mr. Ewart moved the second reading of a bill to introduce the decimal and metric system of weights and measures into this country. A lengthy discussion took place upon the bill, which was strongly opposed by the Government. On a division, however, the second reading was carried by 110 votes to 75.

GENERAL HOME NEWS.—The mortality of London, after long ruling high, has at last fallen below the average. The deaths last week were 1158, while the average of the ten years is 1236. It is satisfactory to find, too, that small-pox is on the decline. Scarlatina is just now the most fatal disease. The number of births was 1959, which was 47 more than the average, and 800 more than the week's deaths.—The revenue return for the past quarter—the first of the financial year—has been issued. There is an increase on all the items except Excise, on which the decrease is nearly half a million. This is partly accounted for by the postponement of the payment of the malt duties, but also, no doubt, by the continued depression in the cotton districts. The Customs, notwithstanding the reduction of the tea duties, show a slight increase, and the net income on the quarter amounts to £80,000. The net increase on the first four quarters amounts to nearly a million, but the first three need hardly be reckoned now, as they were taken into account in the Chancellor's last budget.—A memorial statue of the late Lord Herbert of Lea, was uncovered on Monday at Salisbury. Lord Palmerston was to have officiated at the inauguration, but his recent attack of gout prevented him from being present. Earl de Grey and Ripon, however, occupied his place and uncovered the statue. The ceremony went off very well.—At the meeting of the Central Executive Relief Committee, Mr. Farnall reported a further decrease of 1613 in the number of persons receiving parochial relief in the cotton districts. There are, still, however, about 300,000 persons who are dependent upon the poor rates and the contributions of public benevolence. This number is something like 150,000 below the highest point of indigence reached during last winter; but it was urged by Sir James Kay-Shuttleworth, at a meeting, that this favourable change in the position of affairs arose from causes which would cease to operate as winter approached.—The Royal Commission appointed some time ago to inquire into the subject of secondary punishments have sent in their report, which is said to be unfavourable to the present system. It is stated that the Commissioners recommend considerable alterations in the regulations with reference to short sentences of penal servitude, with the view of rendering punishment more certain and more severe. The report, it is added, condemns the ticket-of-leave system, and urges the trans-

portation of the strong and sturdy perpetrators of violence.—It is stated that the Custom House authorities at Liverpool have declined to give a clearance to the steamship *Gibraltar*, which is lying at that port, unless two heavy Blakeley guns she has on board are re-landed. This vessel is probably our old friend, the *Sumter*. It will be remembered that Capt. Semmes' noted cruiser lay for a long time at Gibraltar, closely watched by Federal war vessels, and that finally she was sold to an English firm, and re-christened after the renowned Rock where she had so long found secure shelter. According to one account, the detained vessel was intended to proceed to Callao—to Nassau, according to a second statement.—Colonel Dickson's action against Lord Combermere and Lord Wilton for conspiring to remove him from the command of one of the Tower Hamlets militia regiments, was brought to a close on Saturday, after a nine days' trial. General Peel was originally included in the list of defendants, but after the case had been partly heard he was dismissed from the suit. The Jury, without hesitation, returned a verdict in favour of the defendants.—A singular will case was decided before the Lords Justices of Appeal from the Master of the Rolls on Saturday. A gentleman agreed in the marriage settlements of his sons to pay or bequeath to them sums of £2500 each. He afterwards fell into reduced circumstances and his estates were considerably involved. The main question was whether his sons, under the marriage settlements, were to be paid first, or whether they were only to rank with other creditors. The Master of the Rolls, and after him the Lords Justices, held that it was a special debt, and that the sons must be paid before the creditors; but, under the special circumstances of the case, they declined to give the costs of appeal.—It would be well that persons who indulge in coarse language should know the risk they run of swearing away their whole estate. A case was tried in the Bail Court, where an unlucky person was fined 40s., being at the rate of 2s. an oath, in a series of which he had been indulging. It appears from the case that the law has established a regular tariff of oaths; and further, that Shakespeare's scale has since his time been reversed. The captain is more sharply dealt with than the soldier. A gentleman is fined five shillings, while a labourer, soldier, or sailor, gets off with one. People in the middle classes have their oaths assessed at the rate of 2s. a piece.—The mysterious star gazer, Zadkiel, appeared at the Court of Queen's Bench, on Monday, in the prosaic character of plaintiff in an action for libel. Our great ruler of planets and prophet is a retired commander in the navy, named Morrison. It appears that some time ago, Sir Edward Belcher wrote a letter to a London contemporary, in which Zadkiel was very broadly charged with obtaining money under the false pretence of enabling persons, by means of a mysterious crystal globe, to see all sorts of visions. Zadkiel considered this a libel, and brought the action which was tried on Monday. He produced several witnesses, including Lady Harry Vane, Lady Ailesbury, Lord Wilton, and the Bishop of Lichfield, to prove that they had seen the marvellous globe, but were charged nothing for the inspection. The jury found a verdict for the plaintiff, with 20s. damages, but the Lord Chief Justice refused a certificate for costs.—A meeting of the St. James's Vestry has been held, when the case of the young milliner, Mary Anne Walkley was brought before them. Dr. Lankester, who had visited the premises, reported that the work and bed rooms were scrupulously clean and otherwise well managed, but that the ventilation was defective. It was remitted to a committee to consider how far it would be desirable to inspect houses where more than a certain number of persons worked or slept.—A discovery has been made at Stoke Newington which discloses conduct of so revolting a kind that it is difficult to believe it possible. For some time past suspicions have been entertained that an undertaker, carrying on business at Stoke Newington, instead of burying bodies entrusted to him for that purpose, disposed of them in some other way. From his own premises the most disgusting odours came, and at length an official examination was made. Under a quantity of rubbish in a shed in the garden were found coffins containing the decaying remains of children, and another coffin, alleged by the undertaker to contain the dead body of a pauper who had died six weeks ago. On examination, however, it was found that this coffin was empty.—On Thursday, a gymnast, named Valerio, was engaged in walking along a high wire-rope at the Cremorne Gardens, when it gave way and he fell heavily to the ground. He was fearfully injured, and died a few hours afterwards. An inquest has been held on the body and a ver-

dict of "Accidental Death" was returned. Mr. E. T. Smith announces that so long as he is proprietor of the gardens such exhibitions as that in going through which Valerio lost his life shall not again take place in them.—A boiler explosion, attended with lamentable results, occurred at Morley, near Leeds, on Saturday evening. Eight persons were killed, several others were injured, while a considerable amount of property was destroyed or damaged. The cause of the explosion is not stated.—Sir Joshua Jebb died very suddenly on Monday. While riding to his office on an omnibus he fell senseless into the arms of a friend who was with him at the time, and on being taken down it was discovered that he was dead.—Another death has resulted from starvation. An inquest has been held on "a man unknown," about 50 years of age, who died in a common lodging-house. The immediate cause of death was proved to be rupture of the aorta, but the predisposing cause was undoubtedly want of food.—The inquest on the sufferers by the recent railway accident at Streatham came to a close on Wednesday. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death, coupling therewith a recommendation that the express trains on the Brighton line should be run at a less rate of speed.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.—The Emperor of the French has addressed a letter to the new President of the Council of State, recommending the adoption of a scheme of administrative decentralisation. The Emperor points out the disadvantages which arise from the present centralised system, and the vast waste of time caused by the submitting of so many purely local questions to several different authorities. The Emperor declares that he personally lays great stress upon the necessity of a reform in the direction he indicates, and therefore urges the Council of State, to endeavour to arrive at some speedy and satisfactory arrangement. The Emperor went to Paris and presided at a Council of Ministers on Monday, returning in the evening to Fontainebleau. *La France* states that the Russian answer to the notes of the three great Powers is not expected for a week. An Imperial decree is published in the *Moniteur*, ordering that a universal exhibition shall open in Paris in 1867. A great fire took place in Nantes the day before yesterday, which destroyed fifteen large factories. The *Moniteur* of Monday also published a decree abolishing the restrictions hitherto maintained in the baking trade. This decree will take effect from the 1st of the approaching September. The Imperial Court of Grenoble has given judgment in the case of M. Casimir Perier, charged with writing against the Government. M. Perier is pronounced not guilty. The notes of England, France, and Austria on the Polish question were handed to Prince Gortschakoff on Saturday. The *Mémorial Diplomatique*, of Paris, asserts that it has authority for announcing that the basis of the collective demands will be accepted by Russia, although some modification of detail may be proposed, and that Russia will recommend St. Petersburg as the seat of the next Conference. On the other hand the three Powers, this journal asserts, will suggest that Brussels be the place, and Russia is expected to agree to this arrangement. General Mouravieff has issued an order for the establishment of a military and civil administrative tribunal for the purpose of suppressing rebellion in the governments of Wilna, Kowno, Grodno, Minsk, and others over which his authority ranges. A war police council, from whose decision there shall be no appeal, is to be nominated in each of these divisions, and on these councils is to be enjoined, by a series of the most stern and impressive instructions, the task of suppressing every attempt at or indication of an insurrectionary movement. Confiscation of property and trial by court-martial are to be the punishment of every offence. Military law is threatened against all priests who fail in loyal duty.—The Polish National Government is said to have taken the bold step of prohibiting all traffic on the railways connecting Warsaw with St. Petersburg and with Prussia. All the officials, of whatever kind, connected with those lines, are ordered to leave their places immediately. If this order be genuine there will be a ready means furnished to test the real extent of the power which the National Government exercises.—During the debate on the address in the Austrian Lower Chamber, Count Rechberg stated that the policy of Austria is one of peace abroad, combined with the due preservation of the rights of the empire—a declaration which is accepted as reassuring by some of those who have lately been indulging in wild alarms about the imminence of European war.—The Crown Prince of Prussia has addressed a letter to the head of the Provincial Government of Posen, thanking the inhabitants of the Grand Duchy for the warm reception lately given to him.—The Portuguese Chambers were closed on Tuesday by the King in person. His Majesty's speech contained nothing of general interest.—The province of Granada in Spain has been visited by several shocks of earthquake. We do not hear that loss of life or much damage has resulted.—The *Pays* has published intelligence from Mexico confirming the statement that General Ortega and five other superior officers escaped from Orizaba on the 20th of May. It appears from other accounts that an attempt made by General Forey to pledge the Mexican officers not to take any further part in the war under any circumstances had been indignantly rejected. The *Moniteur* of yesterday published Gen. Forey's final report of the operations before Puebla, which terminated in the capture of the city. The General denies that the Mexican forces surrendered because of the want of provisions and ammunition. The defeat of Comonfort, and the success of the attacks upon the fortified places alone, he declares, caused the surrender.

AMERICA.—The important announcement of a great movement of General Lee's army, and of an invasion of Maryland and Pennsylvania, has been brought by the *Persia*. It appears that all General Lee's army had been set in motion, and that a great body of Confederates had entered the Shenandoah Valley, had driven the Federal General Milroy—with a loss estimated by himself at 2000 men—from Winchester to Harper's Ferry, and had obtained some advantages at other places. A considerable corps then crossed the Potomac into Maryland, and occupied Hagarstown, and afterwards advanced into Pennsylvania, as far as Greencastle and Chambersburg. It was not known whether General Lee himself was or was not in the Shenandoah Valley; but one report affirmed that he was not, and that he had crossed the Upper Rappahannock, and was moving towards Warrenton. Extraordinary alarm had been caused throughout Pennsylvania and the neighbouring state by General Lee's movements. President Lincoln had issued a proclamation, calling for 100,000 men from the militia of Pennsylvania, New York, West Virginia, and Ohio. All men able to bear arms had been summoned to the field in Pennsylvania, and the Government of New York, New Jersey, and Maryland were promptly responding to the appeals made to them, and were organising troops for the assistance of Pennsylvania. As soon as General Lee's march was known, General Hooker abandoned Falmouth, and marched with his army towards Washington, establishing his head-quarters at Warrenton: There was a rumour in New York on the night of the 16th inst. that the 6th corps of his army had been cut off, surrounded, and captured by the Confederate forces. The most various and conflicting reports were current in the North respecting General Lee's designs, and merely served to show that his designs were really unknown to his enemies. Some asserted that he intended to fight a great battle in or near the field of Bull Run; others that he contemplated an attack on Baltimore or Washington; others that he intended to enter Pennsylvania with his main army; and others again that he proposed to march to the Ohio, and operate in the north-west, and that his other movements were merely intended to mask and cover that operation. There was no important news from the south-west; later advices from Vicksburg and Port Hudson merely announcing that the sieges were progressing. A Confederate cruiser, a prize of the steamer *Florida*, had captured several vessels within 50 or 60 miles of the Capes of Virginia, to the intense vexation of the Northern shipowners and of the Secretary of the Navy, who had immediately ordered some 30 ships of war to proceed in chase of this audacious rover. The news brought by the *America* is to the 20th June. It contains copious details of the proceedings of the Confederates under Lee. From these it is pretty clear that the intention of that General is to attack Washington. His forces are marching on that city in three columns, one of which is said to be directed to Occoquan, where it will cross the Potomac, and attack Washington on its left; another column marches on Leesburg to cross the Potomac there and attack the capital on its right; and the third column is directed against Fairfax and the front of Washington. Vicksburg had not fallen at the latest dates, but Grant was pushing it very hard, and there was no appearance whatever of any attempt to relieve the place by Johnstone. The *Nova Scotian* brings a few hours' later news than the *America*. It is to the effect that the Confederates had advanced to Centreville and defeated the Federals there. If that be true, Lee is within a short distance of Washington. Longstreet was threatening Leesburg, and Hill was at Dumfries. Hagarstown has been taken possession of by the Confederates, and it was said that they intended to make it their head-quarters for raids into Pennsylvania.

INDIA AND CHINA.—The Calcutta and China mails bring further news relative, among other matters, to the important intelligence previously telegraphed, that the British authorities had extended the time for the acceptance of the ultimatum by the Japanese to the 11th of May. The *China Mail* says:—"War is considered to be imminent. The Japanese are reported to be active. The hosts of war are actually gathering together, and thousands of bright blades already rattle in their scabbards." The same journal gives details of the defeat of the Taeping rebels, and the capture of 'T'ai-tsan by the Anglo-Chinese force under Major Gordon. The numbers engaged were about 3000 on either side, and 200 or 300 Imperialists were killed. Captain Bannou fell mortally wounded when mounting the breach. Two other European officers were severely wounded. From Rangoon we learn that the cholera has broken out among the European troops there, 21 persons having died in four days. In Bengal very great dissatisfaction was being expressed against Sir Charles Wood's Amalgamation Act.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A.B.—Not quite nine years.

SUSSEX.—We do not know the person named, and certainly never gave him authority to use our name.

J.W.—Make an appointment, and we will keep it if we receive reasonable notice.

AN INSTRUCTOR.—The *Book of Constitutions* is published under the authority of Grand Lodge. It is at present undergoing revision.